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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,660	11/29/2006	Patrick E. Snow	**RC-0012	4599
23377 7590 11/23/2009 WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2929 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891				
EXAMINER KHAN, MEHMOOD B				
ART UNIT 2617		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 11/23/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/551,660

**Applicant(s)**

SNOW, PATRICK E.

**Examiner**

MEHMOOD B. KHAN

**Art Unit**

2617

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 26, 29, 30, 33 and 35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 26, 29, 30, 33 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/13/09 has been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 6, 7, and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 6, 7 and 10 recites "the device", further clarification is required as which device is being referred to, i.e. portable device or another portable device.

Claim 10 recites "recording function", further clarification is required as to which recording function is being referred to, i.e. audio recording function or image recording function. Appropriate correction and clarification is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9-12, 14, 15, 18, 24, 30 and 35 are rejected under 35**

**U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil (US 6,973,333) in view of Watanabe et al. (US 2005/0285944 herein Watanabe).**

Claim 1, O'Neil discloses determining whether the portable digital device is within a specific geographic region around another portable digital device (**Col 14: 12-18, where O'Neil discloses determining GPS location of the vehicle, i.e. another portable device, comparing with region information of the cell phone, i.e. portable digital device**), O'Neil discloses inhibiting operation of said digital device upon receipt of a first inhibiting signal transmitted by said another portable digital device (**Col 13: 40-45, where O'Neil discloses imposing prohibitions on identified cell phones by using command messages, i.e. a first inhibiting signal**), O'Neil discloses when said portable digital device is located in said specific geographic region around said another portable digital device (**Col 14: 12-18, where O'Neil discloses comparison of GPS with region ID provided by the cell phone**).

O'Neil does not explicitly disclose a digital device having at least one of an audio recording function and an image recording function.

In an analogous art, Watanabe discloses a digital device having [[at least one of an audio recording function]] and an image recording function (**0049, where Watanabe discloses a image recording**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil prohibit image capture as taught by Watanabe so as to prohibit people from taking flash photography in restricted areas (**0007**).

Claim 2, O'Neil discloses receiving a second inhibiting signal having a transmission originating from a fixed location security station in the specific geographic region **(Col 6: 30-45, where O'Neil discloses applicability of restrictions from a CRS (Fig. 3: 330), i.e. fixed station, based on location).**

O'Neil does not explicitly disclose disabling the [[at least one of audio and]] image data recording function of the portable digital device in response to receipt of the inhibiting signal.

In an analogous art, Watanabe discloses disabling the [[at least one of audio and]] image data recording function of the portable digital device in response to receipt of the [[first or]] inhibiting signal **(0049, where Watanabe discloses prohibiting image capturing).** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil prohibit image capture as taught by Watanabe so as to prohibit people from taking flash photography in restricted areas **(0007).**

Claim 3, O'Neil discloses wherein said portable digital device is configured so that when said device is outside the specific geographic region, said device is functional **(Col 14: 12-18, where O'Neil discloses comparing the GPS position to enact restrictions, so thus when no match of region ID and GPS no restriction).**

O'Neil does not explicitly disclose when said device is outside the specific geographic region, an image data recording function is functional **(0048, 0049, where Watanabe discloses restriction/prohibition within range of Wireless Communication, so thus when outside the range image capture is functional).**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil prohibit image capture as taught by Watanabe so as to prohibit people from taking flash photography in restricted areas **(0007)**.

Claim 5, as analyzed with respect to the limitations as discussed in claim 2.

Claim 6, O'Neil discloses monitoring the geographic region of the device using a navigation module selected from the group: GPS, GSM, GPRS, MA, UTMS and 3G **(Col 3: 10-15, where O'Neil discloses obtaining GPS location of the phone, Col 14: 12-18, where O'Neil discloses comparison of GPS with region ID provided by the cell phone)**.

Claim 8, O'Neil discloses storing data relating to said device detected as being present in the specific geographical region **(Col 8: 55-57, where O'Neil discloses storing region IDs)**.

Claim 9, O'Neil discloses wherein said operation is inhibited for a predetermined period of time before the operation can be enabled again **(Col 15: 10-15, where O'Neil discloses restricting operation for a predetermined time)**.

Claim 10, O'Neil discloses wherein the device has a memory **(Fig. 4: 470, 420, 425, where O'Neil discloses tables, thus a memory)** and wherein the method further comprises: O'Neil discloses modifying the memory of the device to indicate that the inhibiting operation has occurred **(Fig. 10, where O'Neil discloses active warning =**

**true)**, O'Neil discloses checking whether the memory has been modified to indicate that the inhibiting operation has occurred before allowing access to function (**Fig. 11, where O'Neil discloses active warning = false and not blocking calls**).

O'Neil does not explicitly disclose the data recording function.

In an analogous art, Watanabe discloses the data recording function (**see discussion of claim 1**).

Claim 11, O'Neil discloses wherein the first inhibiting signal received at the portable digital device using a communication scheme transmitting-over at least one radio frequency (**Fig. 1: 125, where O'Neil discloses a cellular base station, thus cellular frequencies and a communication scheme**), O'Neil discloses the communication scheme selected from the group supported by GSM, GPRS, 3G, I-Mode, UTMS, Ultrawideband (UWB) wireless data standard and/or CDMA (**Col 4: 46-47, where O'Neil discloses CDMA**).

Claim 12, O'Neil discloses wherein at least one frequency used to transmit the first inhibiting signal is changed at intervals to improve security (**Fig. 21, where O'Neil discloses periodic warning**).

Claim 14, Cho discloses installing usage control code on the device for performing the control of usage of the device (**Fig. 4: 470, where O'Neil discloses restrictions table**).

Claim 15, as analyzed with respect to the limitations as discussed in claim 14.

Claim 18, Claim 18 further limits an alternative of claim 1. Since O'Neil discloses the "audio function", the limitations of claim 18 have been met.

Claim 24, O'Neil discloses wherein a security station is fitted on board a vehicle (**Fig. 22, Fig. 4**), O'Neil discloses said security station broadcasting/transmitting an inhibiting or disabling signal intermittently in the specific geographic region (**see claim 1**), O'Neil discloses at least one function of the portable digital device being disabled on receipt of the signal (**see claim 2**).

Claim 30, as analyzed with respect to the limitations as discussed in claims 1 and 2.

Claim 35, as analyzed with respect to the limitations as discussed in claim 1.

**Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable O'Neil in view of Heiskari et al. (US 5,901,342 herein Heiskari).**

O'Neil discloses the second inhibiting signal (**see claim 1**).

O'Neil does not explicitly disclose wherein at least one portable device is used as a repeater to broaden coverage.

In an analogous art, Heiskari discloses at least one portable device is used as a repeater to broaden coverage (**Col 4: 64-64, where discloses using phones as repeaters**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at



the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil to include using phones as repeaters as taught by Heiskari so as to transmission at fixed states (**Col 2: 60**).

**Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil in view of Fomukong (US 2008/0051105).**

O'Neil does not explicitly disclose wherein the geographic location of the device is monitored by triangulation of signals from at least two cellular base stations.

In an analogous art, Fomukong discloses wherein the geographic location of the device is monitored by triangulation of signals from at least two cellular base stations (**0028, where Fomukong discloses earth based stations**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil to include monitoring of mobile phones as taught by Fomukong so as to providing secured and accessible remote receiving unit position information (**0005**).

**Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil in view of Watanabe in view of Cho (EP 1139684).**

O'Neil discloses wherein the first inhibiting signal is communicated to the portable digital device in the form of [[one of an audio signal or]] a signal transmitted using short-range transmitters (**Col 7: 6-10, Col 13: 45-50, where O'Neil discloses short-range transmission, i.e. BLUETOOTH**).

O'Neil in view of Watanabe does not explicitly disclose an inhibiting signal transmitted at an optical frequency.

In an analogous art, Cho discloses an inhibiting signal transmitted at an optical frequency (**0048, where Cho discloses acoustic and infra red waves**). Therefore, it

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil in view Watanabe to inhibit devices as taught by Cho so as to provide protection of observed secrets **(0006)**.

**Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil in view Watanabe in view of Aerrabotu (US 6,829,429).**

O'Neil in view Watanabe does not explicitly disclose a step of modifying code within the device relating to the at least one of audio recording function and an image data recording function and preventing said code being executed by the device.

In an analogous art, Aerrabotu discloses a step of modifying code within the device preventing said code being executed by the device **(Claim 9)**. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil in view Watanabe to include modifying code as taught by Aerrabotu so as to provide an improved and convenient method for releasing service locks **(Col 1: 44-45)**.

**Claims 17, 19, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil in view Watanabe in view of Cocita (US 2006/0281450).**

Claim 17, O'Neil discloses detecting disconnection of the device from a communications network **(Fig. 13: 1340, where a region ID is checked before applying restrictions, thus leaving an area)**.

O'Neil in view Watanabe does not explicitly disclose preventing a normal transmission operation relating to captured data upon said disconnection.

In an analogous art, Cocita discloses preventing a normal transmission operation relating to captured data **(0026, where Cocita discloses that is well known to delete data)**. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil in view Watanabe to include erasing data as taught by Cocita so as to provide safeguarding data **(0009)**.

Claim 19, O'Neil in view Watanabe does not explicitly disclose deleting the captured data from the device.

In an analogous art, Cocita discloses deleting the captured data from the device **(0019, where Cocita discloses erasing all data)**. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil in view Watanabe to include erasing data as taught by Cocita so as to provide safeguarding data **(0009)**.

Claim 21, O'Neil discloses a step of broadcasting a source-identifying signal to the specific geographical region **(Col 4: 59-61, where O'Neil discloses identified locations)**.

Claim 22, O'Neil discloses wherein the source-identifying signal comprises one of an audio tone or a series of optical signals **(Col 15: 40-45, where O'Neil discloses infra red)**.

**Claims 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil in view Watanabe in view of Cocita in view of Hirai (US 2001/0018742).**

Claim 20, O'Neil in view Watanabe in view of Cocita does not explicitly disclose transmitting the captured data relating to the device to a security entity.

In an analogous art, Hirai discloses transmitting the captured data relating to the device to a security entity (**Fig. 3A, where Hirai discloses transmission to the monitoring station**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil in view Watanabe in view of Cocita to include transmission to a monitor as taught by Hirai so as to copyright protection.

Claim 23, O'Neil in view Watanabe in view of Cocita does not explicitly disclose checking if data transmitted over a network includes a recording of the source-identifying signal, and transmitting the data to a security entity instead of its intended recipient.

In an analogous art, Hirai discloses checking if data transmitted over a network includes a recording of the source-identifying signal, and transmitting the data to a security entity instead of its intended recipient (**Fig. 3A**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil in view Watanabe in view of Cocita to include transmission to a monitor as taught by Hirai so as to provide copyright protection.

**Claims 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil in view of Hirai.**

Claim 26, as analyzed with respect to the limitations as discussed in claim 1.

O'Neil does not explicitly disclose preventing the attempted transmission of data including the source-identifying signal.

In an analogous art, Hirai discloses preventing the attempted transmission of data including the source-identifying signal (**Fig. 3A, where Hirai discloses transmission to a monitoring station**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Neil to include transmission to a monitor as taught by Hirai so as to provide copyright protection.

**Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cho in view of Hirai.**

Cho discloses enabling operation of said imaging function in response to an interrogation or enabling signal from a central station (**0033, where Cho discloses leaving the area**).

Cho does not explicitly discloses returning an image to said central station (**Fig. 3A, where Hirai discloses transmission to a monitoring station**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cho to include transmission to a monitor as taught by Hirai so as to provide copyright protection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MEHMOOD B. KHAN whose telephone number is (571)272-9277. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

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examiner's supervisor, Lester Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. B. K./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/Lester Kincaid/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617